

# EXHIBIT A

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p. 2

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: John M. Thompson et al.

Examiner: Hoang, Johnny H.

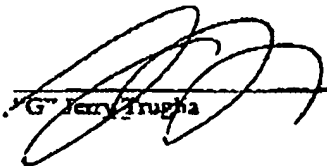
For: **ENGINE MISFIRE DETECTION SYSTEM****DECLARATION UNDER RULE 37 C.F.R. 81.132**

1. My name is Jerry Traglia. I am sometimes referred to by those that know me as "G".
2. I have attached my curricula vitae as Exhibit 1 to this declaration. It includes twenty-seven years in the automotive industry. In particular, I have worked in automotive emissions since 1979.
3. From my work with the Environmental Protection Agency, I am familiar with 40 C.F.R. § 86.099-17, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 2 to this declaration.
4. Because of my training and my employment, I am familiar with the problem of misfire detection in multi-cylinder engines and the currently commercially available solutions to this problem.
5. Even though 40 C.F.R. § 86.099-17 requires the ability to detect engine misfire events, compliance with this regulation is not rigidly enforced because of the difficulty in accurately determining which cylinder in an engine is misfiring.
6. John Thompson demonstrated the ACE Misfire Detective to me in September 2004.
7. Prior to viewing Mr. Thompson's prototype, I was unaware of any device that could accurately predict cylinder misfires by measuring oxygen levels.
8. Prior to viewing Mr. Thompson's prototype, I believed that it was impossible to link the output of an oxygen sensor in an exhaust path of a vehicle to combustion inefficiency in a particular cylinder of an engine's combustion cycle.

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8. I have stated on a public website dedicated to auto technician news, "If I did not see what the ACE Misfire tool can do with my own two eyes I would not believe it. John has an easy and simple way to check for misfire problems. The tool is reasonable priced as well. It got my thumbs up as a must have tool." A copy of the post in which I made this statement is attached as Exhibit 3.

9. I hereby declare that all declarations made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

  
G. Jerry Trugha

7-6-05  
Date